

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Previously presented)** An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

**2-12. (Canceled)**

**13. (Previously presented)** A method for producing a protein having cyclo(D-lactyl-L-N-methylleucyl-D-3-phenyllactyl-L-N-methylleucyl-D-lactyl-L-N-methylleucyl-D-3-phenyllactyl-L-N-methylleucyl) (PF1022) synthetase activity, which comprises the steps of:

culturing a host cell transformed with a vector containing a nucleotide sequence under conditions suitable for protein expression, wherein the nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- (c) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and which encodes a protein having PF1022 synthetase activity; and

collecting the protein from the culture medium.

**14. (Canceled)**

**15. (Currently amended)** An isolated protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- (c) ~~a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and which encodes a protein having PF1022 synthetase activity.~~

**16-17. (Cancelled)**